THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 21 projects have been prioritised for Central financial assistance of Rs. 661.65 lakhs during the year 2001-2002.

(c) Out of 21 projects prioritised, 17 proposals so far have been received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh. Three projects for Rs. 36.60 lakhs have been approved. The remaining projects are at various stages of process.

(d) The Government is attracting foreign as well as domestic tourists by promoting India including the State of Andhra Pradesh through its 18 overseas and 21 domestic offices by advertising in print and electronic media, participations in travel fairs, inviting media, and Travel Agents on fam trip and extensive use of IT in tourism promotion.

Indian's share in global tourist traffic

583. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) India's share in global tourist traffic;

(b) whether it is a fact that this share is very marginal;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the steps being taken by Government to make tourism sector more attractive and sound?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) At present India's share of foreign tourist arrivals in the world's arrivals is 0.38 per cent.

(c) and (d) Special efforts are needed to increase India's share in the world tourist traffic. A new Tourism Policy is in the offing. It would be finalised before the year end. Our Prime Minister, Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee, in his Independence Day message on August 15, 2001, had declared: "Tourism is a big source of employment generation and foreign exchange earning. Indeed, it is the fastest growing industry in the world today. To achieve this end, we shall unveil a progressive National Tourism Policy before the end of this year."

Special efforts are being made to present to the world the wonder that is India—wonder not only in terms of beauties and bounties of nature but also in terms of a civilisation that was born, bred and beckoned here and also beamed outside its geographical frontiers and left its imprints as far as Bahamia in Afghanistan in North-West and Cambodia in the East; a civilisation that sprang up from an original and powerful mind and created three of the five greatest thought processes in the world, namely, Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism.

Government's overall endeavour is to ensure that the tourist to India should get physically invigorated, mentally rejuvenated, culturally enriched and spiritually elevated. And on return to his country, he should feel India within him.

Comprehensive tourism policy

584. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) by when Government are going to bring before Parliament a comprehensive tourism policy to attract tourists in the country;

(b) the salient features of the proposed policy;

(c) to what extent the tourism industry has suffered after the September 11th attacks on the USA;

(d) whether Government have identified any areas for drastic reforms and modernisation to attract tourists; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) The draft of the Tourism Policy was discussed in the Chief Ministers' and State Tourism Ministers' Conference held on 30th October, 2001 to obtain the views of the State Governments on the various issues. Government is taking action to finalise it soon. The salient features of the draft policy are as follows:—

- Providing for peoples participation in the development of tourism and in sharing the benefits of tourism.